

Difenderfer, city; H. H. Tshudy, Litz; T. F. Evans, Litz; G. A. Geyer, Spring Garden; J. B. Lichty, city; J. H. Miller, Marietta; Washington L. Hershey, Chickies; C. L. Hunsicker, Manheim; J. W. Brookhart, Salunga; J. G. Reist, Mount Joy.

Under the head the following questions were submitted for discussion at the next meeting:

"It is advisable to hold a poultry show next winter." Referred to S. P. Eby, eqq.

"Should I use more than a single variety?" Referred to G. A. Geyer.

**Regular Discussions.**

"What is a preventive for vermin on fowls?" This question having been assigned to W. J. Kastro, who was absent, the discussion was taken up by Mr. S. P. Eby, who said that a first consideration was a clean nest to hatch in. Three days before the chicks come give the hen and nest a good dusting with insect powder. If this is not done vermin will surely come, retard their growth and perhaps kill the chicks. They must be watched afterwards. Keep the roosts clean also. He keeps the hen house dusted with coal ashes mixed with dry earth. He removes the nesting material occasionally and gets a foothold. The red spider louse often causes much trouble. Insect powder will remove the trouble. Ointments are harmful.

"What is the best method of vermin to be put tobacco into the nest where the hen sits, along with dry sulphur. In the poultry house he uses coal oil and tobacco shavings. The young ones he treats with a preparation composed of one part of oil of sassafras and two parts of coal dust, and he keeps under the wings. He recently tried this on badly infested chicks, and it killed them at once.

H. H. Tshudy believes in a liberal use of dust. He uses street dust with fine lime and finds it does very well. Lice gather in small openings in the boards of roosts, where they can be reached with coal oil. It is a bad plan to set hens in the same room where others roost. He has never tried coal ashes, and he uses tobacco shavings and sassafras oil, although he has doubts about greasing chicks with anything; cleanliness is the main part.

Mr. Evans said a dust bath of any kind is good. Fancy fowls should, however, have the kind that preserves their plumage best.

Mr. Geyer's way of setting hens is to use tobacco in the mother's nest. Birds that run in the fields are free of vermin than those more confined.

Fancy fowls need a dust bath of coal dust; carbolic acid insect powder he also finds very good. He uses the insect powder mill to apply the powder which reaches the skin in this way.

F. R. Difenderfer has known tobacco to kill larger animals than birds. Insect powder can be used on canary birds, showing that it does not affect the health of chicks.

F. R. Difenderfer uses street dust, in which sulphur has been freely put.

Rev. D. C. Tobias said since our last meeting he had received a letter from Mrs. R. Baldwin, who gave a new method for removing the membrane or worms from the windpipe of chicks afflicted with gas. He was told to use the silk of a G violin string around the silk or gut of a G violin string. This was introduced into the windpipe and the spirals entangled the dangerous obstructions and brought them along when the wax was drawn out. This remedy seems a very simple one and can easily be tried.

F. R. Difenderfer said he had a hen that was afflicted with leg-weakness. For a few days after he had been with the windpipe, he had her put on a board floor, where the disease first developed. The chicks were taken from her, but the disease still remains, although not so severely as at first.

J. H. Miller recommended rubbing the legs with ammonia. There being no further business before the society, it adjourned.

## THE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

The Lancaster County Beekeepers' Society met on Monday afternoon, May 12, at 2 o'clock, in the parlor of the Black Horse Hotel. The following members were present: J. B. Lichty, city; G. A. Geyer, Spring Garden; G. Martin, Earl; D. H. Lintner, Millersville; John Huber, Peques; D. Kreider, West Lampeter; J. H. Davis, East Earl; L. D. Wenger, West Earl; Jacob Gores, Ephrata; Henry Shiner, Pennville; J. B. Eckman, Ephrata; Henry Huber, Peques; Adam Shreiner, city; P. S. Reist, Litz.

The meeting was called to order by the Vice President. In the absence of the regular Secretary, Mr. F. R. Difenderfer acted as secretary pro tem.

### Condition of the Bees.

Mr. Hershey reported that he had wintered seventy swarms indoors, and all came out strong in bees and brood, and had plenty of honey. He dug in the ground and found it very dry, and he had filled in with sawdust. Boarded up the whole building and inserted ventilators. They wintered very well. The temperature should be kept even at about 40 degrees. He had no trouble in reference to mouldy combs.

Mr. Detweiler went into winter quarters with seventy-five swarms, and all came out strong. He took his swarms out only once in three months.

Mr. Lintner went into winter quarters with thirteen hives. He left them on the summer stand. Fourteen died of dysentery. The bee house was built close to a fence, and there was considerable noise which caused excitement. The others had dysentery, but he stopped it with aniseed oil mixed in syrup, and they are now doing well. The four wintered well.

Mr. Kreidler went into winter quarters with fourteen swarms, and lost two. His bees are now all doing well. He packed chaff around two swarms, and they died of dysentery. The same was true of Mr. Shifler had thirty-eight swarms in the fall and just left them on the summer stand, and all came out in good condition. He puts corn fodder around the houses to keep them warm. He fed the bees five or six pounds of honey in each box, and that kept them in good condition.

Mr. Martin went into winter quarters with twenty-nine colonies packed in chaff, and they are now in very good condition. He had a very strong queen very weak when he went into winter quarters, but are now in very good condition. The bees had a fly in January and one in February, and very few during the remainder of the winter. All the bees in Earl County wintered well.

Mr. Eshleman put up thirty colonies about the middle of November, and lost two, one became queenless and one died from want of food. His bees are in very good condition. He built a slant to protect them from the north wind, and the advantage of packing in chaff is that you will have a larger brood in spring. By giving them proper attention you can make it more profitable.

Mr. Gores wintered eight swarms of bees well, and they will be ready to swarm as soon as any in the neighborhood.

Mr. Davis went into winter quarters with twenty-eight swarms on summer stands, and they are doing well. He put up his hives. He has a slant built to protect them from the north and west winds.

Mr. Reist knows of fifty or sixty swarms that all came out well. They had no protection except from the north wind.

Mr. Hershey reported that he had a letter from New York State, which reported very heavy losses in that State.

Mr. Reist thought it more necessary for bees to have good ventilation in winter than in summer. He found that plan worked very well. There should be a chaff cushion on top to absorb the moisture.

Mr. Reist thought there should be an understanding as to how much honey they should sell and at what price.

Mr. Hershey said honey was selling at his place for 19 or 20 cents. The price will depend upon the size of the crop.

### Dysentery in Bees.

The following question had been referred to Mr. Davis: "What causes dysentery in bees?" He thought that could not happen without a fly would cause the dysentery in bees.

Mr. Hershey thought dysentery was caused by chilling and bad honey for food. They must eat a certain amount of good honey in order to keep up the heat.

Mr. Huber thought bees were as much subject to dysentery in summer as in winter. He thought they were feeding on some kind of food which was not good.

Mr. Eshleman thought dysentery was caused principally by the food. You will find dysentery in summer as well as in winter. Swarms coming out as good as new are the strong ones. The strong ones got the disease while the weak ones did not.

Mr. Reist said sweet cider would not produce dysentery, while sour cider would. He thought it was caused by unwholesome food.

### Virgin Queens.

"Will a virgin queen, if she meets no drone within ten days, afterwards prove fertile?" Referred to Mr. Huber.

Mr. Hershey said he had queens that went eight or nine days after they were hatched before they met the drone, and they proved fertile. He knew them to go out within fourteen days and then become fertile.

Mr. Huber said the queens mostly came out the third day, if the weather is favorable. Sometimes a queen before she had any drones, and when the eggs were hatched they were all drones.

I. G. Martin said he had a queen that could not fly out, and every egg she laid proved a drone. He thought that could not fly, and she became fertile and perfect; her hive was well supplied with bees.

### Business for Next Meeting.

"Should glucose be fed to bees or not?" Referred to I. G. Martin for answer at next meeting.

"What is the best method to prevent incursions?" Referred to P. S. Reist for answer at next meeting.

### Introducing Queens.

Mr. Hershey read the following paper:

Three months have passed since we met last, and now we are here again to see how we can improve beekeeping in our day. The honey season has now commenced, and we have to work among our bees. As the season for introducing queens is fast passing, I try and say a few words about the subject. I first remove the queen from the swarm where I want to put the Italian queen. I put the Italian queen in a wire cage, and I have the queen in a wire cage, and the bees did not breed in it, in one end of the cage; the other end I pinch together. Now hang the cage with the queen between the combs near the food, so that the bees will cluster on it. If the strength of the bees is very large, I prefer to fight together, the bees will liberate the queen in 4 or 36 hours. If the honey is plenty in the fields and the bees store pretty fast, I take the cage out the third day after I have put the queen, and cage in. If the honey is scarce and the bees store very little, I wait one week before I take out the cage. I don't disturb the swarm at all for one week. The bees will liberate the queen in a few days, and she will lay just as well with the cage before the combs as if the cage is out. If the cage is taken out as soon as the bees have liberated the queen, then she has not commenced to lay yet, is light and wild, and will run over combs. The bees will get after her and get the other bees, and then she tries to get loose. Then she will be surrounded, and the bees will smother her. As soon as a queen moves last over the comb the bees go after her. If it is their own reared queen they want her to move, and they will get after her. If she is introduced in one week after the queen is introduced with the cage, then she will be out and laying; it is heavy with eggs, feels at home, and will move slowly over the comb to get after her and get the other bees. If they are killed when introduced are killed on account of the swarms being disturbed before the queen has commenced to lay. Queens that are shipped and have stayed for three or four days, are harder to introduce. If the queen is introduced from one swarm to another in the same apiary. The best time in the day to introduce queens, when honey is scarce, is in the evening just before the sun sets; then you have to get after her and get the other bees at home, and if they would try to rob, night would soon overtake them. The next morning bees that were disturbed by the introduction of the queen will be ready for a fight if strange bees should come. If the honey is plenty, you can introduce the queen at any time in the day with safety to introduce a queen.

Mr. Martin tried Mr. Hershey's plan and only failed once.

### The Honey Market.

Mr. Martin read the following paper:

Marketing honey is of great importance to the beekeeper. If we had but a small number of colonies we can send ready sale for our honey at home, and it is of some importance in what shape it is put up. But if we have a large number of colonies and get thousands of pounds of honey, we must have some other than the home market. Honey to be sold in the market must be in a shape that is attractive, sharp, and so arranged as not to give the dealer any trouble. One large box or can may do great injury. Comb honey should be chiefly in small sections of one and two pounds each, for such packages are rare to sell. They should be clean and white; the honey should be taken from the bees as soon as it is capped, for if it is on the hive long, after it is capped, it will get dark-looking by the bees. If you have a large number of colonies, which only contain a single comb, the consumer can see what he buys. The sections can be glassed if the market demands it; but I think it will sell better without glass, because if the consumer wants to buy a few pounds of honey, he can buy a section of one-fourth weight of glass which he cannot eat. I think the two-pound sections are preferable for the following reason: the bee will store more honey in them than in larger ones. If you have sections the one-pound sections the hive is too much divided into small compartments. Besides, we can afford to sell them cheaper, and the consumer will not have so much trace as when he buys them in the one-pound sections. If you have a large number of the one-pound sections, then we should furnish them.

If separators have been used (and every progressive beekeeper should use them), these sections will be in good condition to be glassed, if glass is demanded, and they will also be in nice shape to be shipped without glass, as they may stand side by side without marring the comb. These should be packed in crates of one dozen of the two pounds, or one dozen of the one-pound sections. The crates should have glass on two sides, so that the honey may be seen.

Extracted honey has all the flavor and is in every way equal, no superior, no comb honey. When the buyer once knows what he wants, he will not be strained honey, it demands for this article will largely increase to the advantage of both the consumer and the producer. Extracted honey is the pure honey, and it is the best honey, and it is the purest. It is not the strained honey, pressed

out of the comb and which contains pollen and brood, which impurities are mixed with the honey. Extracted honey should be put up in glass jars—the one-quart fruit jars are very good and will hold three pounds each, and when they are empty, they are as useful for household use. But if the market demands smaller jars, that will hold only one and two pounds apiece, they should be furnished and nicely labeled and put in crates of one dozen each.

Further, we should instruct buyers that extracted honey will granulate in winter when exposed to a low temperature, and that granulation is a pledge of purity; for honey adulterated with glucose will not granulate. The consumer may buy the honey as you can, and take the remainder to the retail dealers yourself instead of sending it to the wholesale dealers, who will sell it to the retail dealers and then charge you a commission.

At the next meeting of the Young Men's Society you are invited to adjourn to meet on the second Monday in August.

#### FULTON FARMERS' CLUB.

The May meeting of the club was held at the residence of W. H. King, in the British township. All the members were present except Joseph R. Blackburn and S. L. Gregg. Visitors, Jonathan Pickering and Alice Coates.

On an inquiry to the question asked at the last meeting, "Which is the best cherry for general use?" E. H. Haines said that a friend of his, who has a great variety of trees, considered "Coe's Transparent" the leading variety.

W. P. King: What is the cause of the cherry trees splitting in some localities, and what is the remedy for it?

No one present was able to give any satisfactory information on this subject.

Day Wood: What is the prospect for fruit this year?

W. P. Haines: No blossoms on the Baldwins; and most other kinds tolerably full.

Mr. Haines is very correct quite an extent of country this spring. According to his observations there would not be a full crop of apples. Pear and cherry trees were full of blossoms. Siberian crab apples had fallen and were past fruiting.

Joshua Brown: Would it be better to sell wheat at present prices than to hold it?

In answer to this question, the club all concurred in the opinion that there were no indications of a rise in prices, and that the prospect for the next crop of wheat next harvest in the lower end of Lancaster county was very poor.

Montillison Brown: What has been the experience of members in mulching wheat? In three cases where it was tried in this neighborhood it has been a decided injury to it.

Day Wood had noticed the wheat referred to, but had no experience himself.

W. P. Haines and Joshua Brown had each manured some wheat after it was drilled in. It did not benefit the crop like that where it was plowed under, though no injurious effect was noticed.

Charles S. Gatchell had noticed another piece of wheat besides the three spoken of, where mulching appeared to have had a bad effect. Had tried it himself about four years ago. At that time both the wheat and the grass after it were benefited by it.

W. P. King: How can we remove the stains made by lubricating oil from clothing?

Mary Ann Thellinger: Put on lemon juice and expose to the sun.

R. B. Gatchell: Sifted sorrel and salt will take out most stains. Never found any oil stains that would not come out by washing and drying on the grass.

Eather K. Haines: What kind of pens are best for late planting?

Joshua Brown: Champion of England, for both early and late planting.

Joshua Brown: What is the best way to destroy the Sodom apple or horse nettle (*Solanum Carolinense*)?

W. P. Haines: One of the members that had any experience with this plant thought it a very hard question to answer, as it is nearly indestructible. Some of them advised covering the ground with straw or some other material so that the vegetation would be destroyed, using salt with it.

The forenoon session now adjourned to dinner, after which the club made the usual inspection of the farming operations, live stock, etc. But little time was left for anything in a regular club meeting at the place. Buildings somewhat improved and some new fence noticed.

#### Afternoon Session.

In lieu of an essay the host read some articles from the New York Tribune, giving the Higgins method of making and packing butter. Instead of being gathered in the ordinary way, the butter, as soon as it comes, is gradually cooled down to about 40° F., and then, in a large tub, is worked into small pellets about the size of a grain of wheat. Then, instead of working, the milk is washed out

with cold water, or, what is better, brine. It is then salt it to suit the taste.

Day Wood objected to the use of so much water. He knew plenty of good butter makers who did not wash their butter, because it was injured thereby.

Alice Coates, in the great trial of the model since she saw the articles that had been read, she found some difficulty, but was improving. She, too, knew of butter makers who objected to the use of water, but she cases out of ten it would benefit more than hurt.

Mabel A. Haines recited "You are Growing Old Together." Grace A. King read a selection on "Silence," and Charies S. Gatchell "Evidence of Success in Farming," from the *Practical Farmer*.

The question "Is the use of machinery followed by a disinclination to labor?" was next discussed at some length, most of the members coinciding in the opinion that a disinclination to labor did not follow the introduction of machinery, although a disinclination to do by hand work that which could be done by machinery was very apparent among laborers.

W. P. Haines, Day Wood and William King were appointed to make inquiry, and report to a future meeting whether, in their opinion, dairy factories can be successfully carried on in this community. Adjourned to meet at C. S. Gatchell's in June.

#### LINNEAN SOCIETY.

A stated meeting of the society was held Saturday, May 31st, 1879, with Prof. J. H. Dabbs in the chair. Alice attending to the reading of the minutes, etc., and the donation of the museum were examined, and found to consist of three mounted specimens of birds: The "Harlequin Duck," with its numerous synonyms; a fine Feltch Bantem, per Mr. George Flick, the well-known bird store, from Mt. Fordney farm, of the Golden Crowned Thrush, per Mr. Snyder, North Queen street; a pair of beetles, skip jacks, per Mr. Reynolds; sulphate of copper and native copper, from the elements of a galvanized iron pipe, per Mr. S. Rathvon, in the telegraph office; a beautiful black and red bean or seed, per Mrs. Zell, formerly bean-like seed grown on a spike in plants allied to the tapioca or Indian Turnip family; two large lichen, one from Mt. Fordney farm, Warren county, Virginia, per S. Johns, of this city, a variety of the Hemata; a box of lichens and mosses, per F. S. Rathvon.

#### Historical.

Copy of the Federal Intelligencer, Baltimore, December 25th, 1794, was read and accepted. It contained five envelopes with sixty clippings of interest from various papers, per F. S. Rathvon.

#### Library.

Official Patent Office Gazette for May, 1879; *THE LANCASTER FARMER* for May, 1879; botanical contributions from Vol. VI. of the *Journal of the Government Surveys*, by Prof. Thos. C. Porter, sent to Prof. Stahr, for the society; Pamphlet, *Naturalist's Leisure Hours*, A. C. Foot, December, 1878; books, circulars and advertisements.

#### Papers Read.

Ornithological notes on the deposits, the Harlequin Duck, No. 518, S. S. Rathvon, (*Anas glacialis, Lin.*) This peculiar duck has any number of common names besides that of "Harlequin," and generic names to suit any group; in short, 112 synonyms are or have been given to it. Paper 319, on the "Golden Crowned Thrush," (*Seiurus capillus, Swainson*), giving interesting particulars of the species, and their habit of nest building, by Dr. S. S. Rathvon. Although usually accepted, D. S. Jordan, in his late popular work, does not give the generic name *Seiurus*, nor can we find "Golden Crowned Thrush." He has a "Golden Crowned Kinglet," having given the name of *Regulus*, "lehestenii," specific name, "lehestenii," but this is the "Golden Crested Vireo." Both descriptions are very similar, yet they are both recognized in the Birds, by Spencer F. Baird, assisted by the present club. It is a very distinct genus. Such changes or omissions are very provoking to the student.

A paper, No. 520, was read by J. Stauffer, in relation to a rare hawk caught by the noble Kaufman, in a wood near the town of Marion and Spring Hill, near the residence of Amos Kaufman. The children noticed five in a flock, but could only capture one. This they have now caged; it seems to be a pugnacious bird, but its gentleness with young chicks. A similar bird was shot by Charles Lehrer, in the vicinity of Mt. Joy, May 18th, 1856. This shows that the *Purple Gallinule*, occasionally visits Lancaster county. Wilson considers it a very rare bird north, and says his description is from a specimen from a museum in Georgia. He calls it *Gallinula porphyris*. Jordan describes it under the name of *Troglodytes Martinicus*, Temmicks name, etc., and says it is occasionally met with as far north as New Jersey, and New York, and New England. See *Wilson's*, page 753, Birds of the United States, & F.

Baird, et al., Vol. IX., Government R. B. Publication, 1858. We have a mounted specimen of this bird in our collection, no doubt from the old museum of Judge Libhart, of Marietta.

The committee on book cases reported by calling attention to the improvement of the room, and the shelving in the upper store room, not fully completed. The committee was continued.

Much interesting anti-slavery gossip was indulged in. It was said that Mrs. Anne Baue, a sister of one who had something to say, and the time passed with pleasure and profit to the few who took to enjoy it. Why are there not more to take an interest?

## AGRICULTURE.

### Plowing in Crops as Manure.

A large number of farmers are unable to understand how it is possible to better the condition of lands by plowing in clover, rye, buckwheat, etc., in a green condition. The difficulty is in comprehending methods by which crops that are supposed to draw their sustenance from the soil in which they grow can return anything more to the soil than they took up. It is not the growth of the crop, but the fact when it is known that all plants draw nourishment from the atmosphere as well as from the soil, and this is one source of gain. While the leaves are accumulating stores of fertility from the air the roots suck up as much as they can from the soil, and so distinct parts of plants work together. It is probable that crops absorb in some way nitrogen from the atmosphere; at least it has never been satisfactorily proved that they do not take it one from the air. One of the most valuable of the various forms of plant food may be derived. If this point is in doubt it is certain that the leaves gather from the atmosphere the elements of organic matter, and organize them so as to form the green plant; and when we turn under the clover it leaves its organic matter in the soil, and this, in an important sense, manure.

But the excellent effects of plowing under clover or other green crops are not the alone elements of fertility obtained from air. The great, deep-penetrating roots go to a point lower than most of the cereals, and hence they draw supplies of mineral food from sources as far below the surface as the cereals go. Further, it is to be observed that these roots of coarse texture disintegrate and loosen the soil, so that air is let in, and in some sense the work of the plow is performed. Also these roots decay, they form a considerable portion of organic or vegetable matter, which, combined with the mineral, gives a good compost for better plants to thrive in.

From these brief considerations it will readily be seen how it is possible to manure land by plowing in green crops; and we will here remark, that it is a practice not often enough followed by our husbandmen. The clover is perhaps the best of all plants for green manuring, and it is rapidly and cheaply raised. A thin dressing of superphosphate (bone-made) will almost give a heavy crop of clover on common land, and this crop turned under, when at its maturity, and allowed to decay, brings it into good condition, and certainly adds to the farmer's margin for profit in successive crops.—*Journal of Chemistry*.

### Farming on a Large Scale.

The largest cultivated wheat farm on the globe is said to be the Groudin farm, not far from the town of Fargo, Dakota. It embraces some 40,000 acres, both government and railway land, and lies close to the Red river. Divided into four parts, it has dwellings, granaries, threshing machines, elevators, stables for 200 horses, and room for storing 1,000,000 bushels of grain. Besides the wheat farm there is a stock farm of 20,000 acres. In seeding time 70 to 80 men are employed, and during harvest 250 to 300 men. Seeding begins about 1st of 8th, and continues until the month, and is done very systematically, the machines following one another around the field, some four rods apart. Cutting begins about August 8th, and continues until the 1st of September, succeeded by the thrashing, with eight steam thrashers. After thrashing the stubble ground is plowed with great plows drawn by three horses and cutting two furrows; and this goes on until the wheat is cold enough to freeze, and the ground is frozen. There are many other large farms in the territory and in the neighborhood, and they are tilled in much the same manner as the Groudin. The surface of the land and general condition of September, succeeded by the thrashing, with eight steam thrashers. After thrashing the stubble ground is plowed with great plows drawn by three horses and cutting two furrows; and this goes on until the wheat is cold enough to freeze, and the ground is frozen. There are many other large farms in the territory and in the neighborhood, and they are tilled in much the same manner as the Groudin. The surface of the land and general condition of September, succeeded by the thrashing, with eight steam thrashers. 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